

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE SPENDING MILLIONS TO RESPOND TO FLOOD DAMAGE

Hoopa, Calif. – The Hoopa Valley Reservation sustained millions of dollars in structural and road damage during the Dec. 30-31 flooding, but tribal government officials said quick responses from reservation emergency services helped residents survive closed roads, power outages and broken water lines. Hoopa Valley Roads Department crews worked around the clock to clear Highway 96, the main road to the Humboldt County reservation, according to Hoopa Tribal Chairman Clifford Lyle Marshall. He said repair costs for 36 other reservation roads are estimated at \$7.5 million.

Severe flooding isolated the reservation and power outages lasted for five days, but the tribe's public works departments reacted quickly to repair roads and water service. "Our people worked around the clock to clear Highway 96 and repair broken water lines on the reservation. I am very proud of their effort," said Marshall. "The Hoopa Valley Reservation proved we can take care of our residents as a full-service government."

The tribe also administered \$128,000 in emergency assistance to individuals for food and other essentials. "When the power went out many people lost refrigerated food and it became difficult for grocery supplies to make it into the reservation. We are the home to Hupa, Yurok and Karuk tribal members, in addition to non-native people. We provided assistance to anyone who needed it."

Marshall said road crews continue to work on mudslides that have made some reservation roads hazardous. "The loss of transportation routes into the reservation has been a hardship on our people and also our tribal industries. When the roads are closed we cannot ship lumber or modular homes. The flooding has put an unprecedented burden on the tribe to provide emergency service during a time when our revenues and jobs are jammed," said Marshall.

Marshall said the Hoopa Reservation, with a population of about 3,000, is, "just like any other small city in California," providing services to its citizens. "We provide police, fire, public works, education and other social services just like other municipalities. These are vital services that go to all people on our reservation." Marshall said the Hoopa Tribe will be eligible for federal assistance, but it may be months before that assistance restores all areas to pre-flood conditions. "While people wait for help from the state and federal government our tribal government will keep its doors open to all people of the reservation who need emergency services," said Marshall.